United Nations A/C.2/59/L.43

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 November 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 88 (b)
Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Qatar:* draft resolution

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/180 of 21 December 2001, 57/242 of 20 December 2002, and 58/201 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which heads of State and Government recognized the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their particular development needs and to help them to overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems, and resolved to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that was conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See resolution 55/2.

mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Recognizing that landlocked developing countries, with their small and vulnerable economies, are among the poorest of developing countries, and noting that, of the thirty-one landlocked developing countries, sixteen are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[2] adopted by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation,

Recalling the New Partnership for Africa's Development, an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development as most landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

Taking note of the ministerial communiqué adopted at the fifth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held on 27 September 2004 at United Nations Headquarters,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, as set forth in article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[5]

3. *Reaffirms also* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations system organizations, as well as other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and multilateral financial and development institutions, to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Urges* donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit

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[2] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF/202/3), annex I.

[3] A/C.2/59/2.

[4] A/59/208.

[5] See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations*.

developing countries with greater financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans fo. the construction and maintenance of their transit transport facilities, including missing links in the regional transport networks, alternative routes and improved communications, as well as improving the efficiency of the use of transit facilities;

6. *Recognizes* that most transit countries are themselves developing countries often of broadly similar economic structure and beset by similar scarcity of resources, including the lack of adequate transit transport infrastructure;

7. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategy of landlocked developing countries and that donor assistance should consequently take into account the requirement for long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries, including the promotion of a pattern of growth that renders their economies less vulnerable to adverse consequences of their landlocked situation;

8. *Stresses* the need for the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus[6] adopted at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 18 June 2004, in particular paragraphs 66 and 84 thereof, by the relevant international organizations and donors in a multi-stakeholder approach and emphasizes, in this regard, that the examination of issues relating to the trade of small, vulnerable economies, and the framing of responses to these trade-related issues to facilitate their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system should be actively pursued consistent with the Doha work programme, taking into consideration the particular needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries;

9. *Invites* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization and World Trade Organization, International Maritime Organization, to prioritize the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in their relevant programmes of work. And urges them to further expand their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular the Division for Services Infrastructure and Trade Efficiency and the Special Programme for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to continue to carry out its technical assistance activities and analytical work related to transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Declaration, to enhance its cooperation and coordination with organizations

[6] TD/410.

within the United Nations system, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and requests the Office of the High Representative to continue to carry out advocacy work to mobilize international awareness and focus attention on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

12. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take necessary measures to provide the Office of the High Representative with adequate resources as to allow it to effectively carry out its added mandate as stipulated in the Almaty Programme of Action;

13. *Invites* donor countries and the international financial and development institutions to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

14. *Urges* the 2005 high-level event to address the special needs of the landlocked developing countries, within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries, in accordance with the modalities to be set by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, while assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session an item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation";

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.